

US 10/717 304

Attorney Docket No. 03-43

27.(previously presented) The bumper of claim 26, wherein the foam material comprises expanded polypropylene.

28-31. (canceled)

REMARKS

Claim 16 has been amended.

102(b) Rejection - Ohno

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 17, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 as anticipated by US 5,378,031 to Ohno. Anticipation exists only when a single, prior art reference teaches each of the claimed elements, arranged as in the claim, expressly or inherently as interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 16 is the only independent claim and the remaining claims stand or fall with the independent claim. Claim 16 teaches a shield having a second impact zone corresponding to a tibia of an adult pedestrian. A beam is behind the shield and at least one block comprising a compressible material is interposed between the shield and the beam.

Ohno teaches a block comprising a compressible material interposed between a beam 3 and a shield 1. While Ohno does not describe the height of the bumper beam 3, the height of the beam can be inferred from prior art, in which the impact zone of the shield and the bumper beam are above the knee of an adult pedestrian. Further, the front end of the block is not in register with that portion of the shield that is located substantially at a height corresponding to a tibia of an adult pedestrian. Ohno lacks at

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least one element of claims 16, 17, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 and cannot anticipate the present invention.

102(b) Rejection – Renault

The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 18 as anticipated by US 6,435,577 to Renault. Renault describes a block 10 comprising a compressible material interposed between a beam 4 and a shield 44. The block includes a front end in register with an impact zone of the shield. The shield is substantially at a height corresponding to the top of the leg 40 of an adult pedestrian. See Figure 1 and col. 4, lines 1-3. The front end of the block is not at all in register with an impact zone located substantially at a height corresponding to the tibia of the pedestrian as required by claim 16 of the present invention. Indeed, Renault includes no block comprising a compressible material in register with the tibia of an adult pedestrian. Claims 16 and 18 include an element, which is not present in Renault. Renault cannot anticipate the claims.

103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects claim 19 as obvious in light of Ohno and US 2002/0149214 to Evan; claim 23 in light of Ohno and US 6,428,065 to Sato; and claim 25 in light of Ohno and US 3,933,387 to Salloum. Claims 19, 23 and 25 are patentable as dependent claims of allowable claim 16.

Applicants respectfully submit the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

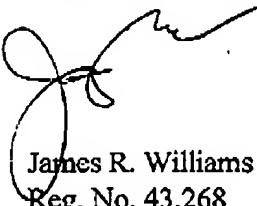
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